from the group consisting of routers, switches, firewalls, authentication servers, web hosts, proxy servers, netflow servers, databases, mail servers, RADIUS servers, and domain name servers, the gatherers being positioned on a segment of the network on which the network devices coupled thereto are positioned for minimizing an impact of the gatherers on the network;

(b)   translating the network communications usage information collected from the network devices utilizing the information source modules;

(c)   caching the network communications usage information collected from the network devices utilizing the gatherers;

(d)   normalizing the network communications usage information with the gatherers by excluding fields not required by a central event manager coupled to the gatherers;

(e)   defining an enhancement procedure utilizing the central event manager;

(f)   coordinating the collection of the network communications usage information by the gatherers utilizing the central event manager;

(g)   filtering the network communications usage information utilizing the central event manager;

(h)   completing a plurality of data records from the filtered network communications usage information, the plurality of data records corresponding to network usage by a plurality of users;

(i)   aggregating the network communications usage information and the data records utilizing the central event manager for reducing a number of the data records;

(j)   enhancing the aggregation with the gatherers in accordance with the defined enhancement procedure;

(k)   time stamping the data records at a user-specified interval;

(l)   storing the time stamped data records in tables in a central database coupled to the central event manager at a user-specified interval;

(m)   deleting the stored data records upon the cessation of a predetermined amount of time after the storage utilizing the timestamp;

(n)   continuously monitoring a state of the gatherers;

(o)   detecting a fault; and

(p)   utilizing the state of the gatherers and the stored data records to recover from the fault upon the detection thereof.